



**The Brookdale
Foundation Group**



Arizona GrandFacts:

October 2007

The AARP Foundation, The Brookdale Foundation Group, Casey Family Programs, Child Welfare League of America, Children's Defense Fund, and Generations United have partnered to produce fact sheets for grandparents and other relatives raising children that include state-specific data, programs, and public policies. This and other state fact sheets can be viewed and printed from the website at www.grandfactsheets.org. Fact sheets are updated annually. Updates can be sent directly from the website via email. Please write "State Fact Sheets" on your e-mail subject line.

In Arizona...

- 96,062 children live in grandparent-headed households (7.0% of all children in the state). There are another 36,720 children living in households headed by other relatives (2.7% of all children in the state). Of the children living in households headed by grandparents or other relatives in Arizona, 54,833 have neither parent present.
- 52,210 grandparents report they are responsible for their grandchildren living with them [13,262 in Phoenix and 4,995 in Tucson]: 5% of these grandparents are African American; 39% are Hispanic/Latino; 14% are American Indian and Alaskan Native; 1% are Asian; and 40% are White. 27% of these grandparents live in households without the children's parents present. 74% are under the age of 60; 19% live in poverty
- Additional data on grandparents raising children are available from the United States Census at <http://factfinder.census.gov> or <http://www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/phc-t17.html>

Programs That Can Help

Arizona Children's Association's Gold Gate Community Center

Sponsoring Organization: KARE Intergenerational Program

Contact: Phyllis Habib, Prog. Supervisor

Phone: 602-233-0017x13

Email: phabib@arizonaschildren.org

Service area: Western Phoenix

Services offered:

- Information/referral
- Case management
- Parenting education
- Se habla Español

Central Arizona Kinship Care Coalition

Sponsoring Organization: Beatitudes Center for Developing Older Adult Resources (D.O.A.R.)

Contact: Donna Hepperman, Generations Director

Phone: 602-274-5022

Email: hepperman@centerdoar.org

Web: www.centerdoar.org

Service area: Regional

Services offered:

- Monthly meetings to share resources, collaborate to expand services
- Seasonal celebrations
- Annual Grandparent University (one-day seminar)

Center for Effective Parenting

Contact: Suzann Hernandez

Phone: 479-751-6168

Email: shernand@jtlshop.jonesnet.org

Service area: Springdale

Services offered:

- Information/referral by email, phone, in person
- Legislative advocacy
- Support groups in English, Spanish

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren in Southern Arizona Coalition

Sponsoring Organization: University of Arizona Cooperative Extension

Southern Arizona Contact: Linda Block

Phone: 520-626-5151

Email: lblock@ag.arizona.edu

Central Arizona Contact: Jessica Sanchez-Jackson

Phone: 620-470-8086 x 12

Email: jessica@ag.arizona.edu

Northern Arizona Contact: Beth Tucker

Phone: 928-774-1868

Email: tucker@ag.arizona.edu

Web: www.ag.arizona.edu/grandparents

Service area: Cochise, Coconino, Maricopa, Pima, Yuma counties

Services offered:

- *Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Resource Notebook*
- Referrals
- Information on legal options
- Parenting skills and support groups
- School resources
- Wellness centers
- Food banks

Grandparents United for Children's Rights, Inc.

Contact: Billy Wilda
Phone: 602-273-0004
Email: bwilda@quest.net
Service area: Statewide

Services offered:

- Information/referral
- Legal advice
- Support group workshops
- Courses for grandparents and other relative caregivers

Kinship Kare of Northern Arizona (KKONA)

Sponsoring Organization: University of Arizona Cooperative Extension
Contact: Michele Lytle, KKONA Coordinator
Phone: 928-774-1868 x15
Email: mlytle@ag.arizona.edu
Service area: Northern Arizona

Services offered:

- Educational workshops
- Support groups
- Family activities
- Grandparent Mentors

Kinship and Adoption, Resource and Education (KARE) Family Center

Sponsoring Organization: Arizona's Children Association, Casey Family Programs, Pima Council on Aging, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, Arizona Department of Economic Security (Division of Developmental Disabilities, District II)
Phone: 520-323-4476
Email: kare@arizonaschildren.org
Service area: Tucson

Services offered:

- Legal support (guardianship, adoption, long term permanent choices)
- Support seeking financial benefits (health insurance, TANF kinship subsidy)
- Kinship support groups in Spanish and English; child care often provided
- Professional behavioral health counseling for families
- Case management (crisis management, navigating benefit systems)
- Emergency assistance with food/clothing
- Special services for caregivers over 60 caring for children under 18
- Recreation and wellness activities
- Tutoring, arts program, social and life skills training for youth
- Parenting classes/community education

National Family Caregiver Support Program

Sponsoring Organization: Area Agencies on Aging

Contact: David Besst, Caregiver Programs Coordinator

Phone: 602-542-4446

Email: dbesst@azdes.gov

Website: www.azdes.gov/aaa/programs/care/

Service area: Statewide

Services offered:

- Resources and referrals
- Education and training
- Support groups
- Respite care

Project GrandCare

Sponsoring Organization: Beatitudes Center D.O.A.R. (Developing Older Adult Resources)

Contact: Patricia Domingues, Project GrandCare Coordinator

Phone: 602-274-5022

Email: dominguez@centerdoar.org

Website: www.centerdoar.org

Service area: Phoenix

Services offered:

- Entitlements and benefits counseling
- Legal guidance
- Monthly support groups
- Seminars, respite care, social activities
- Resource guide in Spanish and English: *Helping to Raise Your Children's Children*

Support Connections Program

Sponsoring Organization: Catholic Social Service and Prescott Unified School District

Contact: Jean Jongsma

Phone: 928-778-2531

Email: jjongsma@cssaz.org

Service area: Prescott

Services offered:

- Educational support/workshops
- Newsletter
- Resource manual
- Recreational opportunities
- Comprehensive support

United Cerebral Palsy of Southern Arizona

Contact: Sharon Finefrock, Executive Assistant
Phone: 520-795-3108
Email: sfinefrock@ucpsa.org
Web: www.ucpsa.org
Service area: Southern Arizona

Services offered:

- Support for kinship caregivers raising children with disabilities
- Links to financial assistance, support groups
- Resource manual, video

Children in Foster Care

Numbers

- 9,895 children in out-of-home placements under the supervision of the Arizona Department of Economic Security. Of these children, 2,714 were placed with unlicensed kin and 174 children were placed with licensed kin.

Preferences

- State law and policy require that kin be considered first when an out-of-home placement is sought for a child under the Department's care and custody.

Kinship care licensing

- Kinship foster care parents are encouraged but not required to become licensed foster parents, enabling them to receive the same foster care payment rate as non-kin foster parents.
- No separate licensing program for kinship foster parents. Kin must meet the same licensing standards as non-kin foster parents.

Subsidized guardianship programs

- Provides cash assistance to relatives who become the legal guardians of children who are in the Department's custody and have been in the guardian's custody for at least nine months. The Permanent Legal Guardian must first apply for any federal and state benefits that the child may be eligible to receive.
- Contact: Warren Davison, Foster Care/Adoption Recruitment Coordinator
 - Phone: 602-542-1356
 - Email: wdavison@azdes.gov

Contact for kinship care/training information

- Lauri Devine:
 - Phone: 602-542-2419
 - Email: ldevine@azdes.gov

Public Benefits

Children are often eligible for state and federal benefits even if their caregivers do not have legal guardianship or custody. These programs include:

Benefits QuickLINK

- Screens you and/or the children you are raising for 15 major public benefits for older adults and families with children
 - Web: www.aarp.org/quicklink

Financial Assistance

- Cash assistance may be available to children and their grandparents and other relative caregivers through the Cash Assistance Program.
- Contact:
 - Phone: 800-352-8401
 - Web: www.de.state.az.us/faa/cash.asp

Food Stamps

- Based on the family's income, kinship care families may also be eligible for food stamps to help meet food and nutrition needs.
- Contact:
 - Phone: 800-352-8401
 - Web: www.de.state.az.us/faa/food.asp

Health Insurance

- Grandparents and other relative caregivers may apply for free or low-cost Medical Assistance on behalf of the children they are raising through the Department of Economic Security (DES) Family Assistance Administration.
- Caregivers may also be eligible for free coverage under Medicaid.
- Contact:
 - Phone: 800-352-8401
 - Web: www.de.state.az.us/faa/medical.asp

Other Benefits – child care, disabilities, special education, older adult benefits, etc.

- Children's Defense Fund benefit guides for grandparents and other relatives for information about state and federal benefits
 - Phone: 202-662-3568
 - Web: www.childrensdefense.org (Kinship Care Resource Kit)
- National Council on Aging – Benefits CheckUp www.benefitscheckup.org

State Laws

Arizona currently does not have any state laws specifically directed at kinship care families.

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